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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,152	04/05/2001	Mark N. Robins	10011259-1	5116

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

LONG, HEATHER R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,152

Applicant(s)

ROBINS ET AL.

Examiner

Heather R Long

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 18 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hou (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0131636).

Regarding claim **18**, Hou discloses a digital camera, comprising: an optical system (620), an imaging device (630) for receiving from the optical system (620) an optical image of a target scene to be photographed and converting the received optical image to a digital image (paragraph [0035]) (Hou fails to explicitly mention converting the received optical image to a digital image or an analog-to-digital converter, however Hou does state that the device disclosed in his invention is a digital device (paragraph [0012])). Therefore, it is inherent that there would be an analog-to-digital converter in the optical system to convert the optical image into digital format since it is a digital device.); a memory (324) for storing the digital image (paragraph [0030]); an optical character recognition module (428) for converting the digital image to a text file (paragraph [0032]); a device for acquiring a text pattern to be searched within the text file (316)

(paragraphs [0030] and claim 9; claim 9 states that "the texts can be displayed on the display screen when requested," therefore it is inherent that a search is being conducted for a particular text pattern in order to display the desired text on the display screen); and a controller for determining when the text pattern is recognized (it is inherent that there is a controller to determine when the text pattern is recognized because when a text pattern is requested it is shown on the display when it is found as claimed in claim 9).

Regarding claim **20**, Hou discloses a digital camera, further comprising: an image compression module (424) for producing a compressed digital image from the digital image (paragraph [0032]).

Regarding claim **21**, Hou discloses a digital camera comprising: means for collecting an optical image (620) (paragraph [0035]); means for converting the optical image to a digital image (it is inherent that there would be an analog-to-digital converter in the optical system to convert the optical image into digital format); means for storing the digital image (324) (paragraph [0030]); means for converting the digital image to a text file (428) (paragraph [0032]); and means for acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be searched within the text file ((316) (paragraphs [0030] and claim 9; claim 9 states that "the texts can be displayed on the display screen when request," therefore it is inherent that a search is being conducted for a particular text pattern in order to display the desired text on the display screen).

Regarding claim **22**, Hou discloses a digital camera further comprising:
means for saving the text file when the text pattern is recognized (it is inherent that there is a buffer in the digital camera in order to save the document before displaying the requested text).

Regarding claim **23**, Hou discloses a digital camera further comprising:
means for compressing the digital image to produce a compressed digital image (424) (paragraph [0032]); means for saving the compressed digital image when the text pattern is recognized (It is inherent that there is a buffer in the digital camera in order to save the document before displaying the requested text. Hou displays both the business card image and the text file when a business card is displayed, see Fig. 2B.).

Regarding claim **24**, Hou discloses a digital camera further comprising:
means for signaling when the text pattern is recognized (claim 9). Hou signals the user by displaying on the screen the text pattern in the particular text file it was found in.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hou as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Laitinen et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0160805).

Regarding claim **19**, Hou differs from claim 19 in that claim 19 further requires the digital camera to comprise an audible tone generator for signaling when the text pattern is recognized.

Referring to the Laitinen reference, Laitinen discloses an audible tone generator for signaling when a text pattern is recognized (paragraph [0027]). Laitinen also discloses in paragraph [0027] that the user can be notified of a text pattern that matches the user-provided text pattern in several different ways, such as display illumination, reverse video, vibrating or ringing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have notified the user as disclosed by Laitinen in the device as disclosed by Hou to provide the user with a notable alert that their search is done in case the user happens to look away from their digital camera.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-17 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for initiating data capture in a digital camera, the method comprising: activating a text-recognition mode in a digital camera; acquiring in

the digital camera a text pattern to be recognized; selecting a first target scene at which to aim the digital camera; capturing a first digital image of the first target scene; converting the first digital image to a first text file; and searching the first text file for the text pattern.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Neukermans et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0011558) discloses a digital camera with a scanner.

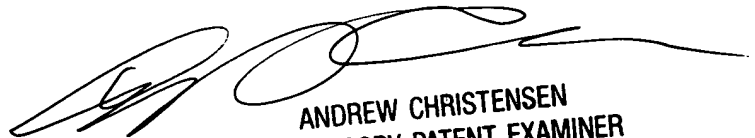
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R Long whose telephone number is 703-305-0681. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HRL
July 9, 2004



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